

Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA)

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In news– Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA) has been formally signed between Japan and Australia recently.

About Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA)-

- It is a **bilateral defense and security pact between the governments of Australia and of Japan** that provides for shared military training and military operations.
- This treaty is only **Japan's second such agreement while the only other military pact is with the United States**, that dates back to 1960.
- It establishes in particular procedures between Japan and Australia for the cooperative activities conducted by the defence force of one country while visiting the other country, and defines a status of the visiting force.
- With its entry into force, the Japan-Australia RAA will facilitate implementation of cooperative activities between the defence forces of the two countries and further promote bilateral security and defense cooperation.
- It will also pave the way for an enhanced contribution by Japan and Australia to the peace and stability of the Indo-Pacific region.
- The pact was signed because of concerns that China was exhibiting increased belligerence especially over the South China Sea region, including militarization of disputed features, and dangerous coercive use of coast guard vessels.